

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----010118Z 014786 /62

O 010052Z JUN 77 ZFF-4
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SECTO 5022

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CIEC
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH PAKISTAN FOREIGN
MINISTER

1. PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER AZIZ AHMED OPENED ONE
AND A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE BY STATING
US-PAKISTAN RELATIONS ARE AT A CROSSROADS. RELATIONS
COULD PROCEED TOWARD CONFRONTATION OR TOWARD RESTORA-
TION OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

2. AHMED THEN FOR 45 MINUTES REHEARSED LONG HISTORY
OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, EMPHASIZING FAMILIAR PAKISTANI
GRIEVANCES, AND ALSO WHAT HE PORTRAYED AS PAKISTANI
FOREBEARANCE IN FACE OF DISAPPOINTMENTS. HE DESCRIBED:

-- PAKISTANI STAUNCHNESS IN FACE OF SOVIET THREATS
AFTER U-2 INCIDENT;

-- BHUTTO'S WILLINGNESS TO REMAIN IN CENTO DESPITE HIS
ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN STATEMENTS IN '70, AND DEMONSTRABLE
FACT THAT CENTO WAS OF NO VALUE IN '71 WAR WITH INDIA.

-- LONG DELAY IN US RESUMPTION OF ARMS SHIPMENTS, AND
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EVEN AFTER 1975, US STIPULATIONS THAT PURCHASES MUST
BE FOR CASH, ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS, AND FOR DEFENSIVE
ARMS ONLY, ALTHOUGH US OBLIGATED UNDER 1959 BILATERAL
AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE GRANT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID.

-- PAKISTANI DISMAY OVER US REMONSTRANCES ON FRENCH
REPROCESSING CONTRACT WHICH HE CHARACTERIZED AS VERY

LATE IN GAME AFTER FULL USG KNOWLEDGE OVER MANY YEARS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH FRENCH.

-- "EVIDENCE", WHICH HE SAID HE HAD WITH HIM IN SEVEN VOLUMINOUS FOLDERS, OF US SUPPORT FOR PNA OPPOSITION PARTIES. HE IMPLIED THAT RECENT INTRANSIGENCE OF PNA IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH BHUTTO WAS DUE TO PNA CERTAINTY OF US SUPPORT.

-- SOVIET AMBASSADOR HAD BEEN VISITING BHUTTO WITH MESSAGES FROM SOVIET LEADERS, URGING PAKISTAN TO LEAVE CENTO IN RETURN FOR SOVIET ASSURANCES THEY "WOULD TAKE CARE OF PAKISTAN REQUIREMENTS, INCLUDING MILITARY REQUIREMENTS."

-- BHUTTO HAD BEEN ADVISED BY HIS ASSOCIATES TO ISSUE A WHITE PAPER ON US INTERFERENCE IN DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, BUT BHUTTO HAD SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO DO SO.

3. SECRETARY SAID THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THAT USG WISHES TO HAVE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN. HE HAD ADMIRER PAKISTAN'S PEOPLE AND LEADERS, AND SHARED A DEEP CONVICTION THAT GOOD RELATIONS ARE IMPORTANT TO BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO STABILITY OF REGION. HE WAS SAD TO SEE THE TWO COUNTRIES DRIFTING APART. HE MIGHT NOT BE FAMILIAR WITH ALL DETAILS OF FOREIGN MINISTER'S RECITAL OF HISTORY, BUT HE WAS QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION SINCE JANUARY. THERE WAS TO HIS

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KNOWLEDGE NOTHING THAT IN ANY WAY SUPPORTED FOREIGN MINISTER'S ALLEGATIONS OF INTERVENTION IN PAKISTAN'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS OR ELECTIONS. HE COULD NOT KNOW THE BASIS FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S STATEMENTS, BUT WONDERED WHETHER "DISINFORMATION" ACTIVITIES BY A THIRD COUNTRY COULD BE THE BASIS FOR THE MISUNDERSTANDING.

4. SECRETARY URGED THAT BOTH SIDES PUT THE PAST BEHIND THEM. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD REFRAINED FROM PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE GOP ALLEGATIONS OF INTERFERENCE, EXCEPT TO DENY THEM. USG ARMS FLOW TO PAKISTAN HAD CONTINUED, EXCEPT FOR TEAR GAS. OUR HOPE WAS TO RESUME FRIENDLY RELATIONS, AND AS BETWEEN THE TWO ROADS FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DESCRIBED, USG

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WOULD CHOOSE TO MOVE ON THE ROAD AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES
AND TO HEAL ANY WOUNDS.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER SAID PAKISTAN WOULD LIKE TO
CONSIDER PAST A CLOSED CHAPTER. REPROCESSING ISSUE,
HOWEVER, REMAINED A "YELLOW LIGHT" ON THAT ROAD. HE
WARNED THAT DESPITE PRESSURES, NO PAKISTAN PRIME
MINISTER, BHUTTO OR ANY OTHER, COULD AGREE TO CANCEL
(OR EVEN POSTPONE) REPROCESSING CONTRACT
WITH FRANCE. HE SAID "IF REPROCESSING IS TO BE A
BARRIER, LET ME FACE IT NOW." HE ALSO SAID THAT IN
THE EVENT THESE PRESENT TALKS ARE SATISFACTORY, PRIME
MINISTER WOULD MAKE A SUITABLE PUBLIC STATEMENT AND
WOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO CONTAIN AND RESTRAIN THE
PUBLIC REACTIONS IN PAKISTAN TO KNOWLEDGE OF US
INTERFERENCE, BUT THE LATTER WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT--
ESPECIALLY IF THERE WAS A NEW ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

6. SECRETARY SAID THAT SUCH A STATEMENT BY PRIME
MINISTER SEEMED NECESSARY AND CONSTRUCTIVE, AND HE
HOPED MOVEMENT COULD OCCUR ALONG THAT LINE. ON
REPROCESSING, USG VIEWS WERE WELL KNOWN. USG HAD
GIVEN UP REPROCESSING AND DEVELOPMENT OF BREEDER
REACTORS, AND URGED OTHERS TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES
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BEFORE GOING DOWN SUCH COURSE, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZED

THAT EACH COUNTRY WOULD MAKE ITS OWN DECISION IN THE
END. HE WOULD TALK TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO, HE WAS
SURE, WOULD WISH TO PUT THE PAST BEHIND US AND BUILD
RELATIONS AS FRIENDS AND ALLIES.

7. IN CLOSING, FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED WITH SECRETARY'S
SUGGESTED LINE TO THE PRESS--THAT THESE WERE FRANK AND
FULL DISCUSSIONS THAT SECRETARY FOUND CONSTRUCTIVE; USG
VALUES GOOD RELATIONS WITH PAKISTAN, WITH WHICH WE HAVE
HAD LONG AND CLOSE RELATIONS; WE WOULD DO EVERYTHING
ON OUR PART TO FOSTER THOSE RELATIONS; THE
DISCUSSION COVERED THE WHOLE RANGE OF SUBJECTS IN
OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, FOREIGN RELATIONS, MEETING REPORTS, FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 01-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SECTO05022
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840072-2504, N770003-0597
Format: TEL
From: SECRETARY PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197706102/aaaadljm.tel
Line Count: 184
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3ae10773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2000972
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECRETARY'S BILATERAL WITH PAKISTAN FOREIGN MINISTER
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, PK, US, CIEC, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (AHMED, AZIZ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3ae10773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009